

I-5 Seattle Construction Projects Update

Edition 2, February 2005

I-5 Lane Closures for James Street to Olive Way Pavement Rehabilitation
Scheduled for Spring 2005
Why Resurface I-5 Now?
About This E-mail

Welcome

Welcome to our second e-mail update about major freeway construction projects on Interstate 5. We're investing more than \$21 million over the next few years for six projects that will improve I-5 from Seattle to Shoreline. Construction is already underway on two of these projects and another is starting soon. For project details and photos, visit our project Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5Seattle>.

I-5 Lane Closures for James Street to Olive Way Pavement Rehabilitation Scheduled for Spring 2005

The I-5/James Street to Olive Way pavement rehabilitation project will resurface a one-mile stretch of southbound I-5 through downtown Seattle with some additional work at Dearborn Street. Construction crews must close several southbound I-5 lanes and ramps through downtown Seattle for as many as four weekends this spring to do this work. During two of these weekends, construction is expected to reduce southbound mainline I-5 to one lane.

We will work with our contractor to find ways to finish the work as quickly as possible and to minimize noise, traffic and other disruptions. Despite these efforts this work will be unavoidably noisy and disruptive and will require southbound I-5 lane and ramp closures.

This work requires around-the-clock weekend lane and ramp closures because crews need time to remove damaged concrete panels under the freeway surface, replace them with new concrete panels, and allow the new freeway surface to cure before reopening the lanes to traffic.

Choosing the closure weekends is not an easy task, nor one we take lightly. We are reviewing major event schedules and coordinating with the City of Seattle, transit agencies and others.

Why Resurface I-5 Now?

This is the first major rehabilitation project for I-5 through downtown Seattle since its completion in the mid-1960s. Several times since then, we added lanes by

paving the shoulders with asphalt and re-striping the roadway. Because asphalt and concrete wear at different rates, the asphalt needs repair. Some of the concrete is also damaged, so we will repair it at the same time.

I-5 is turning forty and is in need of a major makeover. Patches, short-term fixes, and costly emergency repairs are no longer adequate to keep I-5 working safely. This summer we will completely overhaul portions of southbound I-5 between James and Olive streets with additional work at Dearborn Street.

We will replace the existing concrete foundation and asphalt with a stronger and more durable concrete surface. This is expected to increase the lifespan of these hard-working freeway lanes at least another 20 years.

About This E-mail

You received this e-mail because we thought you would want to keep up with the latest news about our work on or near I-5 in Seattle and Shoreline. These messages alert you to the latest project and closure information.

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested in the news about our work to improve I-5 in Seattle and Shoreline. If you received this message from someone else, sign up to receive it directly by sending e-mail to I5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov, with "subscribe" in the subject line.

To unsubscribe from this list, send a blank email to leave-i-5-seattle-construction-12762F@lists.wsdot.wa.gov